DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/Cloture

SUBJECT: National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998 . . . S. 936. Lott motion to close debate.

ACTION: CLOTURE MOTION REJECTED, 46-45

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 936, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998, will authorize a total of \$268.2 billion in budget authority for national defense programs (the President requested \$265.6 billion). In real terms, this bill will authorize \$3.3 billion less than was provided in fiscal year (FY) 1997.

On June 27, 1997, Senator Lott sent to the desk, for himself and others, a motion to close debate on S. 936.

NOTE: A motion to close debate requires a three-fifths majority (60) vote to succeed.

Those favoring the motion to invoke cloture contended:

The Defense Authorization Bill is so large and involves so many interests that if no attempt is made to consider it in an orderly process the Senate could easily spend all year debating it. This bill first reached the floor on June 19, nearly a month ago. It has not been on the floor for much of the time since then, but Senators have had more than enough time to review it and draft any amendments that they may wish to offer. Senators should not have an unlimited amount of time to draft and offer their amendments. This cloture vote is intended as a signal to Senators that the preliminary review period is over; any amendments they may wish to offer should already have been drafted and should be offered this week. We do not expect to invoke cloture on this vote, but we do expect to finish the consideration of this bill soon.

Those opposing the motion to invoke cloture contended:

We think this cloture motion has been offered prematurely because many controversial amendments that we know of have yet to be offered and voted upon. Though we have no intention of delaying the passage of this bill, voting to limit debate at this point could prevent the full consideration of some of those amendments. Therefore, we oppose the motion to close debate.

YEAS (46)			NAYS (45)			NOT VOTING (9)	
Republicans Democrats (46 or 94%) (0 or 0%)		Republicans	Democrats		Republicans Democrats		
		(0 or 0%)	(3 or 6%)	(42 or 100%)		(6)	(3)
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brownback Burns Campbell Chafee Collins Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Enzi Faircloth Frist Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel	Hatch Helms Hutchison Inhofe Kempthorne Kyl Lott Mack McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner		Cochran Gorton Lugar	Akaka Baucus Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Hollings	Inouye Johnson Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Torricelli Wellstone Wyden	Coats- ² Hutchinson- ² Jeffords- ² McCain- ² Roth- ² Smith, Gordon- ² EXPLANATI 1—Official B 2—Necessaril 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Announ AN—Announ PY—Paired Y PN—Paired N	y Absent ced Yea ced Nay 'ea